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from George F. Kunz and Ward's Establishment. In 1912 the private collection of Professor Henry A. Ward, numbering over 600 falls (and finds), was added to the collection, and thus the most representative series of meteorites in the world was secured." The growth of American collections has been remarkable. It is hoped that they will be made the subjects of fruitful study, with a view of contributing their share in solving the many problems of meteors and meteorites still before us.

W. W. CAMPBELL.

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#### GENERAL NOTES.

*Meeting of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific at San Diego.*—The Astronomical Society of the Pacific will hold a meeting at San Diego in August in conjunction with the first meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, of which it is a constituent member.

The opening session of the Pacific Division A. A. A. S. will be held on Wednesday, August 9th, at which time the President, Dr. W. W. Campbell, will give an address on the subject of "What We Know About Comets." Separate sessions of the various constituent societies will be held on the two following days and on Saturday, if necessary. The latter day, however, is mainly reserved for excursions. A pamphlet giving full information regarding the meetings, rates of transportation, hotel rates, etc., will be mailed to all members in the Pacific area at a later date.

The program committee for the astronomical meetings, Messrs. Aitken, Leuschner and Seares, request that members planning to present papers send the titles to the committee as soon as possible, together with a statement of time needed for presentation and whether or not lantern slides will be used. Abstracts of papers should be in the hands of the committee early in July and certainly not later than July 29th. Authors

are urged to make the abstracts intelligible and interesting to non-professional readers, as it is planned to print many of them in the daily press.

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*The Difference of Longitude Between Paris and Washington.*—A definitive discussion of the determination of the difference of longitude between Paris and Washington in 1913-1914 by means of radio-telegraphic signals exchanged between Arlington, Va., and the Eiffel Tower, Paris, has been completed by M. Renan, of the Paris Observatory staff, and the results are communicated by the director, M. Baillaud, in the *Comptes Rendus*, for February 14, 1916.

In the first period of observation, beginning October 27, 1913, and extending to the end of December, complete observations at both stations, with successful exchange of signals, were secured on seven nights. On fourteen other nights signals were exchanged, tho time observations failed to be secured at one or the other station. These are called incomplete observations.

In the second period, beginning January 21, 1914, and extending to early March, complete observations were secured on ten nights, incomplete on twenty nights. Between the two series the observers exchanged stations. It was found that the chronometers were so accurately rated that the incomplete observations could be used as well as the complete ones. The final results are:

FOR THE COMPLETE SERIES.

First period . . . . .	5 <sup>h</sup> 17 <sup>m</sup> 36 <sup>s</sup> .62
Second period . . . . .	5 17 36.84
Weighted mean . . . . .	5 17 36.74

FOR ALL THE SERIES.

First period . . . . .	5 <sup>h</sup> 17 <sup>m</sup> 36 <sup>s</sup> .62
Second period . . . . .	5 17 36.84
Weighted mean . . . . .	5 17 36.76

The last result is adopted, and subtracting from it  $0^{\text{s}}.09$  to reduce to the fundamental meridians of the two observations, we have for the difference of longitude

$$5^{\text{h}} 17^{\text{m}} 36^{\text{s}}.67$$

A preliminary discussion by the American observers gave the value  $5^{\text{h}} 17^{\text{m}} 36^{\text{s}}.66$ , and, like the figures here given, showed a difference of  $0^{\text{s}}.22$  between the results for the two periods. In view of the difficulties attending the transmission of signals this is not considered excessive.

The date in the American Ephemeris for 1916, based on earlier determinations by other methods give  $5^{\text{h}} 17^{\text{m}} 36^{\text{s}}.71$  for the difference in longitude.

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From the report of the annual meeting of the National Academy of Sciences, printed in *Science* for May 5, 1916, we take the following:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE HENRY DRAPER FUND.

Four members of the committee, without consulting the fifth member (Professor Michelson), recommended that the Henry Draper Gold Medal be awarded to Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, for his numerous and important contributions to spectroscopy and astronomical physics.

It is impossible in the brief space of this report even to enumerate Professor Michelson's major services to science. These include the precise determination of the velocity of light; the well-known experiment (with Professor Morley) on ether drift; the measurement of the absolute wave-length of light involved in his determination of the length of the standard meter; the measurement of tides in the body of the Earth with new apparatus of extraordinary precision; and the invention of the interferometer, the echelon, and other instruments of prime importance to the student of light. He has also constructed a ruling machine yielding diffraction gratings of the longest size and the highest resolving power yet attained, and carried on a multiplicity of researches of wide range and fundamental significance.

The same report shows that grants have been made to astronomers from trust funds held by the Academy as follows:

From the Draper Fund, \$250 to Professor Philip Fox, Dearborn Observatory, to apply toward the cost of a machine for measuring astronomical photographs.

From the Watson Fund, \$500 to Professor John A. Miller, Sproul Observatory, for the measurement of stellar parallax plates already taken; and \$300 to Professor H. C. Wilson, Goodsell Observatory, for the measurement of positions of asteroids on plates already taken.

From the J. Lawrence Smith Fund, \$300 to Professor S. A. Mitchell, Leander McCormick Observatory, to continue the work on paths and radiant of meteors.

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In his report of the Harvard College Observatory for the year ending September 30, 1915, recently distributed, Director E. C. Pickering calls special attention to the generous support given to the Observatory for nearly thirty years by the late Mrs. Anna Palmer Draper. By her will, Mrs. Draper placed the Henry Draper Memorial of the Observatory upon a permanent foundation.

Among other items of interest in the report we note specially the fact that Miss Cannon has completed the first step in the formation of the *New Draper Catalog*—the classification of the spectra. In all, 233,050 spectra, including stars to about 9.0 magnitude in the entire sky, have been classified.

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A note in *Popular Astronomy* states that the Van Vleck Observatory of the Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., is now practically completed. Professor Frederick Slocum is the director.

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Dr. Frank Schlesinger, director of the Allegheny Observatory, was elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences, and Dr. Forest Ray Moulton, professor of astronomy in the University of Chicago, to membership in the American Philosophical Society, at the recent annual meetings.

Dr. William Frederick King, chief astronomer of the Canadian Government, superintendent of the Geodetic Survey of Canada, and director of the Dominion Astronomical Observatory at Ottawa, died on April 23rd, at the age of sixty-two years.—*Science*.

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*In the Days of the Daguerrotype* (Occasion—the taking of a portrait in Mérida, Yucatan, in the year 1842, by the explorers Stephens and Catherwood).

“\* \* \* The plate was now cleaned, put into the box, and the light shut off. Now came a trying time for the young lady. She must neither open her lips nor roll her eyes for one minute and thirty seconds by the watch. This eternity at length ended, and the plate was taken out.

“So far our course had been before the wind. Every new formality had but increased our importance in the eyes of our fair visitors and their respectable companions. Mr. Catherwood retired to the adjoining room to put the plate in the mercury bath, while we, not knowing what the result might be, a little fearful, and neither wishing to rob another of the honour he might justly be entitled to, nor to be dragged down by another’s failure, thought best to have it distinctly understood that Mr. Catherwood was the *mæstro*, and that we were merely amateurs. At the same time, on Mr. Catherwood’s account, I took occasion to suggest that the process was so complicated, and its success depended upon such a variety of minute circumstances, it seemed really wonderful that it ever turned out well. The plate might not be good, or not well cleaned; or the chemicals might not be of the best; or the plate might be left too long in the iodine box, or taken out too soon; or left too long in the bromine box, or taken out too soon; or a ray of light might strike it on putting it into the camera or taking it out; or it might be left too long in the camera or taken out too soon; or too long in the mercury bath or taken out too soon; and even though all these processes were right and regular, there might be some other

fault of omission or commission which we were not aware of ; besides which, climate and atmosphere had great influence and might render all of no avail. \* \* \* The result, however, was enough to induce us never again to adopt prudential measures, for the young lady's image was stamped upon the plate, and made a picture which enchanted her and satisfied the critical judgment of her friends and admirers."